

VLR - 9/15/81 NRHP - 7/8/82

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

and/or common SAME

2. Location

street & number Main Street, Route 99

N/A not for publication

city, town Pulaski N/A vicinity of 9th congressional district (William C. Wampler)

state Virginia code 51 county Pulaski code 155

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
o b j e c t	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Pulaski County Board of Supervisors c/o Chairman

street & number Pulaski County Courthouse, Main Street

city, town Pulaski _____ vicinity of _____ state Virginia 24301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Pulaski state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (1) Virginia Historic Landmarks / Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes X no
(2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

date 1968, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pulaski County Courthouse is located on Main Street, in the heart of the town of Pulaski. Combining elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne styles, the massive limestone building was completed in 1896 after the plans of the architectural firm of Chamberlin & Co., of Knoxville, Tennessee. The spacious lot surrounding the building, the gift of the town to the county, enhances the monumentality of the edifice which dominates the downtown area. The 2½-story, hipped-roof structure is distinguished by projecting corner towers. The building is faced with expertly cut rough stonework laid in random ashlar quarried from nearby Pear Creek.

The main (north) entrance is located within a projecting 2½-story central entrance tower. The entry consists of a large round arch that frames double doors. The present metal frame glass doors are modern replacements. The tower's second story has a three-part central window flanked by paired pilasters that also flank blind rectangular openings with pedimented heads. The pilasters have elaborately carved capitals. The tower's attic story has a semicircular-arched window flanked by pedestals. The tower's treatment is repeated on the rear (south) elevation. Situated between the towers is a classically ornamented belfry covered by an elongated domical roof and capped by a lantern.

Fenestration includes a variety of sash within varied openings. The first story of the main block has 2/1 hung-sash windows with transoms in rectangular openings topped by jack arches with keystones. The second-story windows of the main block have 2/1 hung sash with blind fan-like transoms in semicircular-arched openings. The fenestration of the corner tower consists of 2/1 hung-sash windows topped by splayed lintel-type heads. Projecting bays on the east and west elevations have large, round-arch openings with multi-paned windows on the first story and semicircular-arched openings with blind transoms on the second story. Flanked by chimneys, each bay's projecting gable has a multi-paned, round-arched window topped by a pediment.

Although the interior of the courthouse has undergone considerable alteration, the county and court offices, as originally planned, still occupy the first floor. The courtroom remains on the second floor with the original judge's bench, fronted by a carved oak panel, still serving as its focal point. An original balustrade with turned balusters divides the auditorium. The main open-well stair between the first and second floors remains in place. The stair is distinguished by a carved oak newel post.

Surrounded by an iron fence, the courthouse grounds still preserve much of their early flavor. A three-part stone archway inscribed with the dates 1607-1907 serves as a formal entrance to the courthouse yard. The arch originally served as the entrance to the Pulaski County exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. Tall pine trees and large shrubs ornament the yard; the courthouse annex of 1958 was built over the rear (south) lawn.

RCC

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1896

Builder/Architect W. Chamberlin & Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architecturally distinctive Pulaski County Courthouse, a prominent landmark in the town of Pulaski is significant as one of the state's few large public buildings illustrating the influence of the Romanesque Revival style of H. H. Richardson. During the late 19th century the Richardson Romanesque style had proven quite popular in the North where large blocks of rough-hewn stone were piled to form such monumental edifices as the New York State Capitol at Albany, Alleghany County Courthouse and Jail at Pittsburgh, and Trinity Church in Boston. The firm of W. Chamberlin & Co. of Knoxville designed the courthouse at Pulaski in this robust style, with stone quarried from nearby Pear Creek. A controversy concerning the location of the county seat at Dublin or Pulaski was permanently settled when the county took formal possession of the courthouse building in 1896.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Named for Casimir Pulaski, the Polish patriot who served with the Continental Army in the American Revolution, Pulaski County was formed in 1839 from portions of western Montgomery and eastern Wythe counties. The creation of the new county was necessitated by the immigration of settlers into this area of southern Virginia in the years just following the Peace of Ghent. The town of Newbern, an important stop on the Old Baltimore and Nashville Stage Road, became the new county seat.

Within several weeks of the burning of the Newbern courthouse on November 27, 1893, the citizens of both Pulaski and Dublin were mobilized in a competitive effort to remove the county seat from Newbern to their respective towns. The competition was soon joined by the citizens of Newbern who came forth with their historic claims. The controversy received state-wide attention when members of the General Assembly and delegations from the rival towns debated the issue of the future site of the new courthouse building.

Throughout the last half of the 19th century, Pulaski had rapidly developed into the county's center of industry and commerce. The town at the time of the controversy boasted two banks and two fine hotels. The county's one opera house was in the town of Pulaski, and the county newspaper, the News Review, was published in Pulaski. The burgeoning town felt that it had almost everything except the county courthouse. After much debate and two county-wide elections, the State Court of Appeals on March 21st, 1895, voiced a decision in favor of the county seat at Pulaski. In the final agreement, the town of Pulaski contracted to pay the cost of construction of the new courthouse and donate the property on which it would stand. The Knoxville firm of W. Chamberlin & Co. was chosen as architects and the local firm of Miller & Warden as local contractors.

While the Newbern courthouse, the predecessor of the Pulaski courthouse, was built of brick, the Pulaski commissioners favored a stone building. The durability of stone, together with its symbolic quality of permanence, appealed to Pulaski in their decision for their courthouse. With stone from Pear Creek, construction of the building began and was completed in

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Brockenbrough, Connie. "Old Courthouse Losing Interior," Southwest Times, Pulaski, Va. August 1, 1976.
- Pulaski County Deed Book, No. 17, pp. 178-181.
- Pulaski County Supervisor's Order Book, No. 2, p. 62.
- Pulaski Town Council Minute Book, No. 2, pp. 21-22, 79. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 Acre
 Quadrangle name Pulaski, Virginia Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>4100060</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing			
C					D						
E					F						
G					H						

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on S Side of Main Street (Rt. 99), about 200' W of the intersection of Main St. and Washington Ave. (U. S. 11); thence extending about 150' S; thence about 250' W; thence about 150' N to S Side of Main St.; thence about 250' E along said side to point of origin. (See Continuation Sheet # 1).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September, 1981

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell
 title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director date SEP 15 1981
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

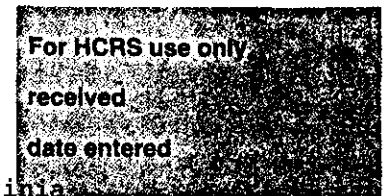
Keeper of the National Register _____ date _____

Attest _____ date _____

Chief of Registration _____

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Main Street, Route 99, Pulaski, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number # 6, 8,9,10

Page 1,1,1,1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

2. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1896 at a cost in excess of \$20,000, including architectural fees of \$1,800. The county officially took possession of the courthouse building on November 16, 1896.

Significant alterations to the building and grounds include the addition of the stone arches at the entrance, which served as the gates to the Pulaski County exhibit at the Jamestown Exhibition of 1907, and the installation of the clock and belfry in 1911. The interior has been considerably altered in appearance but retains its original stair and judge's bench within the courtroom. A courthouse annex was built to the rear of the building in 1958.

MTP/RCC/RAC

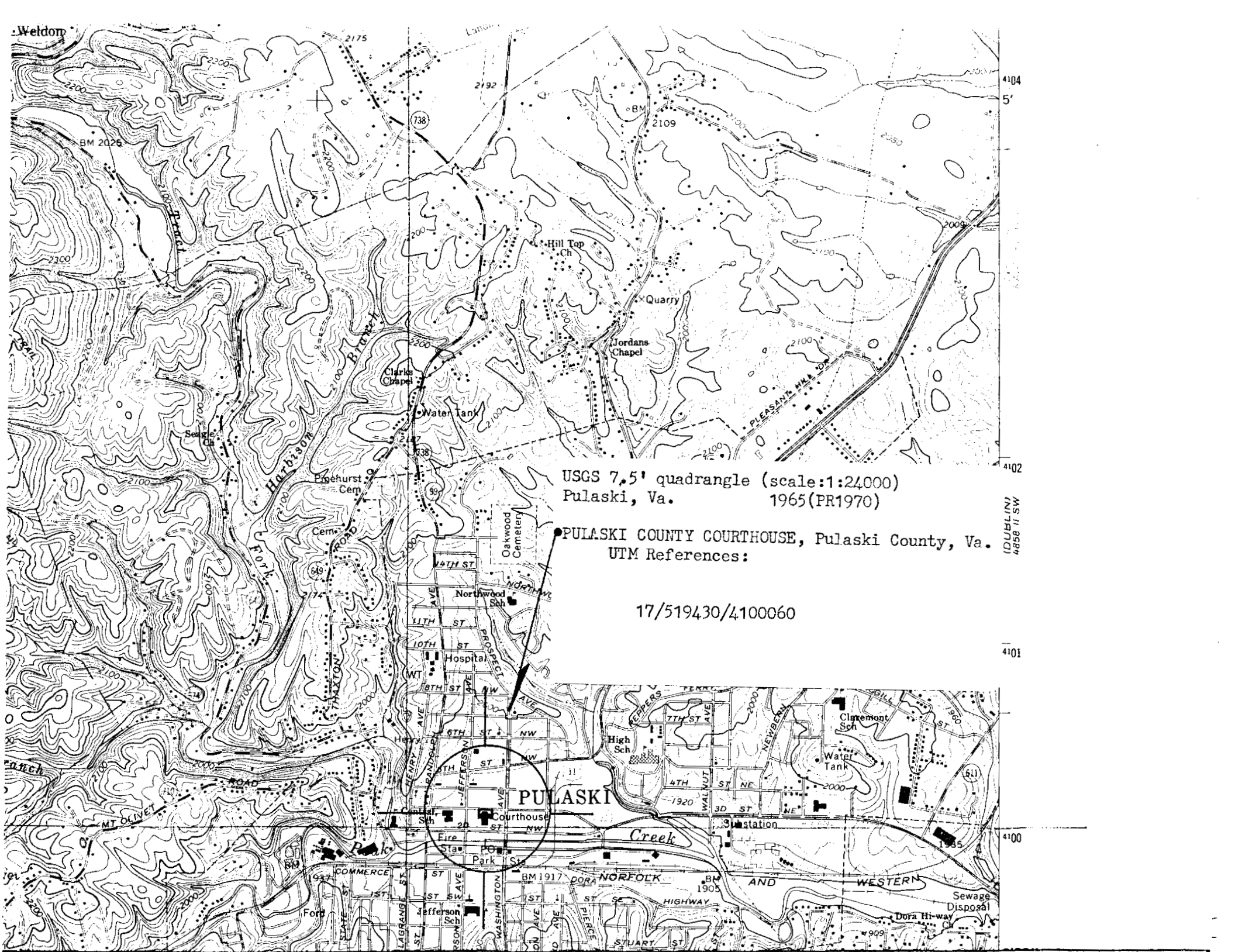
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, Conway. The Land That Is Pulaski County. Pulaski, Va.: Pulaski County Library Board, 1981.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Justification:

The Pulaski County Courthouse occupies the center of a city block in the town of Pulaski bounded on the north by Main Street, on the south by 2nd Street, on the west by Jefferson Avenue and on the east by Washington Avenue. The courthouse is on the original tract of land donated in 1895 to the county provided that they erect the courthouse in the town of Pulaski. The nominated lot of approximately one acre includes only the old courthouse and front grounds as bounded on Main Street by its archway and fence; the courthouse annex is not included in the nomination.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Pulaski, Va. 1965(PR1970)

PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Pulaski County, Va.
UTM References:

17/519430/4100060

4104
5'
4102
DUBLIN
4858 N SW

4101

4100